GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
AVAILABILITY OF DOCTORS
A. VENKATESH NAIK;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of doctors (per thousand) in India at present;

(b) whether it is very low as compared to other developing countries;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) the per capita expenditure incurred on health services in India; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.347 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2002

(a)to(c): As per the Medical Council of India, the availability of allopathic doctors per thousand population is 0.54. Further taking into account the availability of registered practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy which is 0.7 per thousand population, the total availability of doctors per thousand population compares favourably with other developing countries.

(d) During 1999-2000, total per capita expenditure on health was estimated to be Rs.1002.

(e) Resources for public health investments in health sector are being augmented by securing assistance from various bilateral and multi lateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes. Health infrastructure in certain States has also been upgraded with World Bank assistance. The National Health Policy - 2002 also envisages increasing the Central and State Governments contribution in the health sector.